360.325.7070 | 720 Main Street Ste. 227, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 | leeann@familylegal.tech

May 1, 2025

Sent via Electronic Mail

Rosanna Wadkins, Superior Court Administration 205 W. Kincaid Street, Room 202 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: 2025-2026 Proposed Rule Change

Dear Ms. Wadkins:

I am writing to provide a proposal for the 2025-2026 Local Court Rules, which is related to the entry of final orders for my clients who are proceeding pro se with the assistance of a Legal Technician (LLLT). I think this rule change would be helpful to my clients because they need to take time off work to meet with the Court Facilitator. This procedure also creates a delay in the legal process because my clients are required to file a Note for Calendar, so the matter can be signed by a judicial officer weeks later.

Skagit County Local Court Rules are silent regarding the legal services provided by an LLLT. The current local rules require that pro se litigants meet with the Court Facilitator on all final orders, which is contrary to Admission to Practice Rule 28 (APR 28). Pursuant to APR 28(B)(2)(g) the WA Supreme Court has authorized LLLTs to enter agreed orders, uncontested orders, default orders, and the accompanying documents.

I have copied the local rule below, followed by the corresponding proposal, which is the language from the 2024-2025 Whatcom County Superior Court Local Rules. I have also provided the associated provision that authorizes this procedure pursuant to APR 28 on the following page.

94.04.2 FILINGS IN FAMILY LAW CASES

(l) Review of all Final Pleadings. Pro se litigants, married or unmarried, are required to meet with the Courthouse Facilitator on all final decrees, final orders and accompanying findings of fact and conclusions of law, parenting plans, orders of child support, and child support worksheets for family law cases involving children. The Courthouse Facilitator must review the documents for form and completeness prior to presentation to a judicial officer at a hearing or trial. The courthouse facilitator's fee may be waived if the litigant qualifies under GR 34. [Adopted September 1, 2015; amended September 1, 2021]

Proposal: Whatcom County rule example language

WCSPR 94.07 - Entry of Dissolution Decree by Declaration of Jurisdictional Facts

When all parties are unrepresented, the proposed final dissolution documents shall be submitted to the family law facilitator in the superior court clerk's office for review prior to submission to a judicial officer. When at least one of the parties is represented by an attorney or assisted by a limited license legal technician (LLLT), the proposed final dissolution documents may be submitted to the judicial officer without review by the family law facilitator. [Effective 12/1/92, amended 9/1/22, 9/1/24]

WCSPR 94.07 at 33.

APR 28 (g) LLLTs may present to a court agreed orders, uncontested orders, default orders, and accompanying documents. APR 28 at 9.

Adding this language, or similar language, to the Skagit County Local Rules would permit me, and other LLLT's who practice in Skagit County Superior Court the ability to present final papers in uncontested dissolution matters ex parte as outlined in SCLSPR 94.04.2(k).

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider this proposal.

Respectfully,

Lee A. Halpin, WSBA LLLT No. 154

APR 28 LIMITED PRACTICE RULE FOR LIMITED LICENSE LEGAL TECHNICIANS

- A. Purpose. The Civil Legal Needs Study (2003), commissioned by the Supreme Court, clearly established that the legal needs of the consuming public are not currently being met. The public is entitled to be assured that legal services are rendered only by qualified trained legal practitioners. Only the legal profession is authorized to provide such services. The purpose of this rule is to authorize certain persons to render limited legal assistance or advice in approved practice areas of law. This rule shall prescribe the conditions of and limitations upon the provision of such services in order to protect the public and ensure that only trained and qualified legal practitioners may provide the same. This rule is intended to permit trained Limited License Legal Technicians to provide limited legal assistance under carefully regulated circumstances in ways that expand the affordability of quality legal assistance which protects the public interest.
 - **B. Definitions.** For purposes of this rule, the following definitions will apply:
 - (1) "APR" means the Supreme Court's Admission to Practice Rules.
 - (2) "LLLT Board" means the Limited License Legal Technician Board.
- (3) "Lawyer" means a person licensed as a lawyer and eligible to practice law in any United States jurisdiction.
- (4) "Limited License Legal Technician" (LLLT) means a person qualified by education, training, and work experience who is authorized to engage in the limited practice of law in approved practice areas of law as specified by this rule and related regulations.
- (5) "Paralegal/legal assistant" means a person qualified by education, training, or work experience; who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency, or other entity; and who performs specifically delegated substantive law-related work for which a lawyer is responsible.
- (6) "Reviewed and approved by a Washington lawyer" means that a Washington lawyer has personally supervised the legal work and documented that supervision by the Washington lawyer's signature and bar number.
- (7) "Substantive law-related work" means work that requires knowledge of legal concepts and is customarily, but not necessarily, performed by a lawyer.
- (8) "Supervised" means a lawyer personally directs, approves, and has responsibility for work performed by the Limited License Legal Technician.
- (9) "Washington lawyer" means a person licensed and eligible to practice law in Washington and who is an active or emeritus pro bono lawyer member of the Bar.
 - (10) Words of authority:

- (a) "May" means "has discretion to," "has a right to," or "is permitted to."
- (b) "Must" or "shall" means "is required to."
- (c) "Should" means "recommended but not required."

C. Limited License Legal Technician Board

- (1) Establishment. There is hereby established a Limited License Legal Technician Board (LLLT Board). The LLLT Board shall consist of 15 voting members appointed by the Supreme Court, and one nonvoting ex officio member who is a representative of the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. At least 11 members shall be Washington lawyers, LLLTs, or LPOs. Of those 11 members, at least 9 shall be active lawyers or LLLTs, and no more than 2 may be LPOs, or judicial or emeritus pro bono lawyers or LLLTs. Four members of the LLLT Board shall be Washington residents who do not have a license to practice law. Appointments shall be for staggered three year terms. No member may serve more than two consecutive full three year terms. The validity of the Board's actions is not affected if the Board's makeup differs from the stated constitution due to a temporary vacancy in any of the specified positions.
 - (2) LLLT Board Responsibilities. The LLLT Board shall be responsible for the following:
- (a) Recommending practice areas of law for LLLTs, subject to approval by the Supreme Court;
- (b) Working with the Bar and other appropriate entities to select, create, maintain, and grade the examinations required under this rule which shall, at a minimum, cover the rules of professional conduct applicable to LLLTs, rules relating to the attorney-client privilege, procedural rules, and substantive law issues related to approved practice areas;
- (c) Approving education and experience requirements for licensure in approved practice areas;
 - (d) Establishing and overseeing committees and tenure of members;
- (e) Establishing and maintaining criteria for approval of educational programs that offer LLLT core curriculum; and
 - (f) Such other activities and functions as are expressly provided for in this rule.
- (3) *Rules and Regulations*. The LLLT Board shall propose rules, regulations and amendments to these rules and regulations, to implement and carry out the provisions of this rule, for adoption by the Supreme Court.
 - (4) Administration. The Bar shall provide reasonably necessary administrative support for

the LLLT Board. All notices and filings required by these Rules, including applications for admission as an LLLT, shall be sent to the headquarters of the Bar.

(5) Expenses of the LLLT Board. Members of the LLLT Board shall not be compensated for their services but shall be reimbursed for actual reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties according to the Bar's expense policies.

D. [Reserved.]

E. [Reserved.]

- **F. Scope of Practice Authorized by Limited Practice Rule.** The Limited License Legal Technician shall ascertain whether the issue is within the defined practice area for which the LLLT is licensed. If it is not, the LLLT shall not render any legal assistance on this issue and shall advise the client to seek the services of a lawyer. If the issue is within the defined practice area, the LLLT may render the following limited legal assistance to a pro se client:
 - (1) Obtain relevant facts, and explain the relevancy of such information to the client;
- (2) Inform the client of applicable procedures, including deadlines, documents which must be filed, and the anticipated course of the legal proceeding;
- (3) Inform the client of and assist with applicable procedures for proper service of process and filing of legal documents;
- (4) Provide the client with self-help materials prepared by a Washington lawyer or approved by the LLLT Board, which contain information about relevant legal requirements, case law basis for the client's claim, and venue and jurisdiction requirements;
- (5) Review documents or exhibits that the client has received and explain them to the client;
- (6) Select, complete, file, and effect service of forms that have been approved by the State of Washington, either through a governmental agency or by the Administrative Office of the Courts or the content of which is specified by statute; federal forms; forms prepared by a Washington lawyer; or forms approved by the LLLT Board; and advise the client of the significance of the selected forms to the client's case;
 - (7) Perform legal research;
- (8) Draft letters setting forth legal opinions that are intended to be read by persons other than the client;
- (9) Draft documents beyond what is permitted in paragraph (6), if the work is reviewed and approved by a Washington lawyer;

- (10) Advise the client as to other documents that may be necessary to the client's case, and explain how such additional documents or pleadings may affect the client's case;
- (11) Assist the client in obtaining necessary records, such as birth, death, or marriage certificates.
- (12) Communicate and negotiate with the opposing party or the party's representative regarding procedural matters, such as setting court hearings or other ministerial or civil procedure matters;
- (13) Negotiate the client's legal rights or responsibilities, provided that the client has given written consent defining the parameters of the negotiation prior to the onset of the negotiation; and
- (14) Render other types of legal assistance when specifically authorized by the scope of practice regulations for the approved practice area in which the LLLT is licensed.

G. Conditions Under Which A Limited License Legal Technician May Provide Services

- (1) A Limited License Legal Technician must personally perform the authorized services for the client and may not delegate these to a nonlicensed person. Nothing in this prohibition shall prevent a person who is not a licensed LLLT from performing translation services;
- (2) Prior to the performance of the services for a fee, the Limited License Legal Technician shall enter into a written contract with the client, signed by both the client and the Limited License Legal Technician that includes the following provisions:
- (a) An explanation of the services to be performed, including a conspicuous statement that the Limited License Legal Technician may not represent the client in court, formal administrative adjudicative proceedings, or other formal dispute resolution process or negotiate the client's legal rights or responsibilities, unless permitted under GR 24(b) or specifically authorized by the scope of practice regulations for the approved practice area in which the LLLT is licensed:
- (b) Identification of all fees and costs to be charged to the client for the services to be performed;
- (c) A statement that upon the client's request, the LLLT shall provide to the client any documents submitted by the client to the Limited License Legal Technician;
- (d) A statement that the Limited License Legal Technician is not a lawyer and may only perform limited legal services. This statement shall be on the first page of the contract in minimum twelve-point bold type print;
 - (e) A statement describing the Limited License Legal Technician's duty to protect the

confidentiality of information provided by the client and the Limited License Legal Technician's work product associated with the services sought or provided by the Limited License Legal Technician;

- (f) A statement that the client has the right to rescind the contract at any time and receive a full refund of unearned fees. This statement shall be conspicuously set forth in the contract; and
 - (g) Any other conditions required by the rules and regulations of the LLLT Board.
- (3) A Limited License Legal Technician may not provide services that exceed the scope of practice authorized by this rule, and shall inform the client, in such instance, that the client should seek the services of a lawyer.
- (4) A document prepared by an LLLT shall include the LLLT's name, signature, and license number beneath the signature of the client. LLLTs do not need to sign sworn statements or declarations of the client or a third party, and do not need to sign documents that do not require a signature by the client, such as information sheets.
- **H. Prohibited Acts.** In the course of dealing with clients or prospective clients, a Limited License Legal Technician shall not:
- (1) Make any statement that the Limited License Legal Technician can or will obtain special favors from or has special influence with any court or governmental agency;
 - (2) Retain any fees or costs for services not performed;
- (3) Refuse to return documents supplied by, prepared by, or paid for by the client, upon the request of the client. These documents must be returned upon request even if there is a fee dispute between the Limited License Legal Technician and the client;
- (4) Represent or advertise, in connection with the provision of services, other legal titles or credentials that could cause a client to believe that the Limited License Legal Technician possesses professional legal skills beyond those authorized by the license held by the Limited License Legal Technician;
- (5) Represent a client in court proceedings, formal administrative adjudicative proceedings, or other formal dispute resolution process, unless permitted by GR 24 or specifically authorized by the scope of practice regulations for the approved practice area in which the LLLT is licensed;
- (6) Provide services to a client in connection with a legal matter in another state, unless permitted by the laws of that state to perform such services for the client;
- (7) Represent or otherwise provide legal or law related services to a client, except as permitted by law, this rule or associated rules and regulations;
 - (8) Conduct or defend a deposition;

- (9) Initiate or respond to an appeal to an appellate court; and
- (10) Otherwise violate the Limited License Legal Technician Rules of Professional Conduct.

I. Continuing Licensing Requirements

- (1) Continuing Education Requirements. Each active Limited License Legal Technician must complete a minimum number of credit hours of approved or accredited education, as prescribed by APR 11.
- (2) Financial Responsibility. Each LLLT shall show proof of ability to respond in damages resulting from his or her acts or omissions in the performance of services permitted under APR 28 by:
- (a) submitting an individual professional liability insurance policy in the amount of at least \$100,000 per claim and a \$300,000 annual aggregate limit;
- (b) submitting a professional liability insurance policy of the employer or the parent company of the employer who has agreed to provide coverage for the LLLT's ability to respond in damages in the amount of at least \$100,000 per claim and a \$300,000 annual aggregate limit; or
 - (c) submitting proof of indemnification by the LLLT's government employer.
- (3) License Fees and Assessments. Each Limited License Legal Technician must pay the annual license fee established by the Board of Governors, subject to review by the Supreme Court, and any mandatory assessments as ordered by the Supreme Court. Provisions in the Bar's Bylaws regarding procedures for assessing and collecting lawyer license fees and late fees, and regarding deadlines, rebates, apportionment, fee reductions, and exemptions, and any other issues relating to fees and assessments, shall also apply to LLLT license fees and late fees. Failure to pay may result in suspension from practice pursuant to APR 17.
- (4) *Trust Account*. Each active Limited License Legal Technician shall annually certify compliance with Rules 1.15A and 1.15B of the LLLT Rules of Professional Conduct. Such certification shall be filed in a form and manner as prescribed by the Bar and shall include the bank where each account is held and the account number. Failure to certify may result in suspension from practice pursuant to APR 17.
- **J. Existing Law Unchanged.** This rule shall in no way modify existing law prohibiting the unauthorized practice of law.

K. Professional Responsibility and Limited License Legal Technician-Client Relationship

- (1) Limited License Legal Technicians acting within the scope of authority set forth in this rule shall be held to the standard of care of a Washington lawyer.
- (2) Limited License Legal Technicians shall be held to the ethical standards of the Limited License Legal Technician Rules of Professional Conduct, which shall create an LLLT IOLTA program for the proper handling of funds coming into the possession of the Limited License Legal Technician.
- (3) The Washington law of attorney-client privilege and law of a lawyer's fiduciary responsibility to the client shall apply to the Limited License Legal Technician-client relationship to the same extent as it would apply to an attorney-client relationship.
- L. Confidentiality and Public Records. GR 12.4 shall apply to access to LLLT Board records.
- **M. Inactive Status.** An LLLT may request transfer to inactive status after being admitted. An LLLT on inactive status is required to pay an annual license fee as established by the Board of Governors and approved by the Supreme Court.
- **N. Reinstatement to Active Status.** An LLLT on inactive status may return to active status by filing an application and complying with the procedures set forth for lawyer members of the Bar in the Bar's Bylaws.
- O. Voluntary Resignation. Any Limited License Legal Technician may request to voluntarily resign the LLLT license by notifying the Bar in such form and manner as the Bar may prescribe. If there is a disciplinary investigation or proceeding then pending against the LLLT, or if the LLLT has knowledge that the filing of a grievance of substance against such LLLT is imminent, resignation is permitted only under the provisions of the applicable disciplinary rules. An LLLT who resigns the LLLT license cannot practice law in Washington in any manner, unless they are otherwise licensed or authorized to do so by the Supreme Court.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2012; Amended effective August 20, 2013; February 3, 2015; June 21, 2016; September 1, 2017, June 4, 2019.]

APPENDIX APR 28. REGULATIONS OF THE APR 28 LIMITED LICENSE LEGAL TECHNICIAN BOARD

REGULATION 1. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 2. APPROVED PRACTICE AREAS—SCOPE OF PRACTICE AUTHORIZED BY LIMITED LICENSE LEGAL TECHNICIAN RULE

In each practice area in which an LLLT is licensed, the LLLT shall comply with the provisions defining the scope of practice as found in APR 28 and as described herein.

A. Issues Beyond the Scope of Authorized Practice.

An LLLT has an affirmative duty under APR 28(F) to inform clients when issues arise that are beyond the authorized scope of the LLLT's practice. When an affirmative duty under APR 28(F) arises, then the LLLT shall inform the client in writing that:

- 1. the issue may exist, describing in general terms the nature of the issue;
- 2. the LLLT is not authorized to advise or assist on this issue;
- 3. the failure to obtain a lawyer's advice could be adverse to the client's interests; and
- 4. the client should consult with a lawyer to obtain appropriate advice and documents necessary to protect the client's interests.

After an issue beyond the LLLT's scope of practice has been identified, if the client engages a lawyer with respect to the issue, then an LLLT may prepare a document related to the issue only if a lawyer acting on behalf of the client has provided appropriate documents and written instructions for the LLLT as to whether and how to proceed with respect to the issue. If the client does not engage a lawyer with respect to the issue, then the LLLT may prepare documents that relate to the issue if

the client informs the LLLT how the issue is to be determined and instructs the LLLT how to complete the relevant portions of the document, and

above the LLLT's signature at the end of the document, the LLLT inserts a statement to the effect that the LLLT did not advise the client with respect to any issue outside of the LLLT's scope of practice and completed any portions of the document with respect to any such issues at the direction of the client.

B. Domestic Relations.

1. Domestic Relations, Defined. For the purposes of these Regulations, domestic relations shall include only the following actions: (a) divorce and dissolution, (b) parenting and support, (c) parentage or paternity, (d) child support modification, (e) parenting plan modification, (f)

domestic violence protection orders, (g) committed intimate relationships only as they pertain to parenting and support issues, (h) legal separation, (i) nonparental and third party custody, (j) other protection or restraining orders arising from a domestic relations case, and (k) relocation.

- 2. Scope of Practice for LLLT's—Domestic Relations. LLLTs licensed in domestic relations may render legal services to clients as provided in APR 28(F) and this regulation, except as prohibited by APR 28(H) and Regulation 2(B).
- (a) Unless an issue beyond the scope arises or a prohibited act would be required, LLLTs may advise and assist clients with initiating and responding to actions and related motions, discovery, trial preparation, temporary and final orders, and modifications of orders.
- (b) LLLT legal services regarding the division of real property shall be limited to matters where the real property is a single family residential dwelling with owner equity less than or equal to twice the homestead exemption (*see* RCW 6.13.030). LLLTs shall use the form for real property division as approved by the LLLT Board.
- (c) LLLTs may advise as to the allocation of retirement assets for defined contribution plans with a value less than the homestead exemption, and as provided in United States Internal Revenue Code (IRC) sections 401a; 401k; 403b; 457; and Individual Retirement Accounts as set forth in IRC section 408.
- (d) LLLTs may include language in a decree of dissolution awarding retirement assets as described in APR 28 Regulation 2(B)(2)(c) when the respondent defaults, when the parties agree on the award, or when the court awards the assets following trial. The award language in the decree shall identify (1) the party responsible for having the qualified domestic relations order (QDRO) or supplemental order prepared and by whom, (2) how the cost of the QDRO or supplemental order preparation is to be paid, (3) by what date the QDRO or supplemental order must be prepared, and (4) the remedy for failure to follow through with preparation of the QDRO or supplemental order.
- (e) LLLTs may prepare paper work and accompany and assist clients in dispute resolution proceedings including mediation, arbitration, and settlement conferences where not prohibited by the rules and procedures of the forum.
- (f) LLLTs, when accompanying their clients, may assist and confer with their pro se clients at depositions.
- (g) LLLTs may present to a court agreed orders, uncontested orders, default orders, and accompanying documents.
- (h) LLLTs, when accompanying their clients, may assist and confer with their pro se clients and respond to direct questions from the court or tribunal regarding factual and procedural issues at the hearings listed below:
 - i. domestic violence protection orders and other protection or restraining orders arising

from a domestic relations case;

- ii. motions for temporary orders, including but not limited to temporary parenting plans, child support, maintenance, and orders to show cause;
 - iii. enforcement of domestic relations orders;
 - iv. administrative child support;
 - v. modification of child support;
 - vi. adequate cause hearings for nonparental custody or parenting plan modifications;
 - vii. reconsiderations or revisions;
- viii. trial setting calendar proceedings with or without the client when the LLLT has confirmed the available dates of the client in writing in advance of the proceeding.
- 3. *Prohibited Acts*. In addition to the prohibitions set forth in APR 28(H), in the course of rendering legal services to clients or prospective clients, LLLTs licensed to practice in domestic relations:
 - a. shall not render legal services to more than one party in any domestic relations matter;
 - b. shall not render legal services in:
 - i. defacto parentage actions;
- ii. actions that involve 25 U.S.C. chapter 21, the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, or chapter 13.38 RCW, the Washington State Indian Child Welfare Act;
- iii. division or conveyance of formal business entities, commercial property, or residential real property except as permitted by Regulation 2(B);
- iv. preparation of QDROs and supplemental orders dividing retirement assets beyond what is prescribed in Regulation 2(B)(2)(d);
- v. any retirement assets whereby the decree effectuates the division or the implementation of the division of the asset;
 - vi. bankruptcy, including obtaining a stay from bankruptcy;
- vii. disposition of debts and assets, if one party is in bankruptcy or files a bankruptcy during the pendency of the proceeding, unless: (a) the LLLT's client has retained a lawyer to represent him/her in the bankruptcy, (b) the client has consulted with a lawyer and the lawyer has provided written instructions for the LLLT as to whether and how to proceed regarding the

division of debts and assets in the domestic relations proceeding, or (c) the bankruptcy has been discharged;

viii. property issues in committed intimate relationship actions;

- ix. major parenting plan modifications and nonparental custody actions beyond the adequate cause hearing unless the terms are agreed to by the parties or one party defaults;
- x. the determination of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act issues under chapter 26.27 RCW or Uniform Interstate Family Support Act issues under chapter 26.21A RCW unless and until jurisdiction has been resolved;
 - xi. objections or responses in contested relocation actions; and
- xii. final revised parenting plans in relocation actions except in the event of default or where the terms have been agreed to by the parties.

REGULATION 3. EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LLLT APPLICANTS AND APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

An applicant for admission as an LLLT shall satisfy the following education requirements:

A. Core Curriculum.

- 1. Credit Requirements. An applicant for licensure shall have earned 45 credit hours as required by APR 3. The core curriculum must include the following required subject matters with minimum credit hours earned as indicated:
 - 1. Civil Procedure, minimum 8 credit hours;
 - 2. Contracts, minimum 3 credit hours;
 - 3. Interviewing and Investigation Techniques, minimum 3 credit hours;
 - 4. Introduction to Law and Legal Process, minimum 3 credit hours;
 - 5. Law Office Procedures and Technology, minimum 3 credit hours;
 - 6. Legal Research, Writing and Analysis, minimum 8 credit hours; and
 - 7. Professional Responsibility, minimum 3 credit hours.

The core curriculum courses in which credit for the foregoing subject matters is earned shall satisfy the curricular requirements approved by the LLLT Board and published by the Bar. If the required courses completed by the applicant do not total 45 credit hours, then the applicant may earn the remaining credit hours by taking legal or paralegal elective courses. All core

curriculum course credit hours must be earned at an ABA approved law school, an educational institution with an ABA approved paralegal program, or at an educational institution with an LLLT core curriculum program approved by the LLLT Board under the Washington State LLLT Educational Program Approval Standards.

For purposes of satisfying APR 3(e)(2), one credit hour shall be equivalent to 450 minutes of instruction.

- 2. LLLT Educational Program Approval Requirements for Programs Not Approved by the ABA. The LLLT Board shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining standards, to be published by the Association, for approving LLLT educational programs that are not otherwise approved by the ABA. Educational programs complying with the LLLT Board's standards shall be approved by the LLLT Board and qualified to teach the LLLT core curriculum.
- **B. Practice Area Curriculum.** An applicant for licensure in a defined practice area shall have completed the prescribed curriculum and earned course credits for that defined practice area, as set forth below and in APR 3(e). Each practice area curriculum course shall satisfy the curricular requirements approved by the LLLT Board and published by the Bar.

1. Domestic Relations.

- a. Prerequisites: Prior to enrolling in the domestic relations practice area courses, applicants shall complete the following core courses: Civil Procedure; Interviewing and Investigation Techniques; Introduction to Law and Legal Process; Legal Research, Writing, and Analysis; and Professional Responsibility.
- b. Credit Requirements: Applicants shall complete 5 credit hours in basic domestic relations subjects and 10 credit hours in advanced and Washington specific domestic relations subjects.
- C. Required Supplemental Education. The LLLT Board has discretion to require all LLLTs to complete supplemental education in order to maintain their licenses due to changes in the permitted scope of practice for LLLTs. The LLLT Board shall provide notice to LLLTs of the supplemental education requirement and the deadline for completion of the requirement, allowing at least 12 months to complete the required supplemental education. LLLTs may be administratively suspended pursuant to the procedures set forth in APR 17 if they fail to comply with the supplemental education requirements by the stated deadline.

REGULATION 4. LIMITED TIME WAIVERS

A. Limited Time Waiver, Defined. For the limited time between the date the Board begins to accept applications and December 31, 2023, the LLLT Board shall grant a waiver of the minimum associate-level degree requirement and/or the core curriculum education requirement set forth in APR (3) if an applicant meets the requirements set forth in Regulation 4(B). The LLLT Board shall not grant waivers for applications filed after December 31, 2023. The LLLT Board shall not waive the practice area curriculum requirement. The limited time waiver application will be separate from the application process for admission set forth in these

regulations.

- **B. Waiver Requirements and Applications.** To qualify for the limited time waiver, an applicant shall pay the required fee, submit the required waiver application form and, and provide proof, in such form and manner as the Bar requires, that he/she has:
 - 1. Passed an LLLT Board approved national paralegal certification examination;
- 2. Active certification from an LLLT Board approved national paralegal certification organization; and
- 3. Completed 10 years of substantive law-related experience supervised by a licensed lawyer within the 15 years preceding the application for the waiver. Proof of 10 years of substantive-law related experience supervised by a licensed lawyer shall include the following:
 - (a) the name and bar number of the supervising lawyer(s),
- (b) certification by the lawyer that the work experience meets the definition of substantive law-related work experience as defined in APR 28, and
 - (c) the dates of employment or service.
- **C. Review of Limited Time Waiver Application.** The Bar shall review each limited time waiver application to determine if the application meets the waiver requirements. Any application that does not meet the limited time waiver requirements as established by this Regulation shall be denied by the Bar on administrative grounds, with a written statement of the reason(s) for denial.
- **D. Review of Denial.** An applicant whose application for waiver has been denied by the Bar may request review by the LLLT Board chair. Such request shall be filed with the Bar within 14 days of the date of the notification of denial. The applicant shall be provided with written notification of the chair's decision, which is not subject to review.
- **E. Expiration of Limited Time Waiver Approval.** Approval of the limited time waiver application shall expire December 31, 2025. After expiration of the approval, any subsequent application for licensure by the applicant shall meet all of the standard requirements for admission without waiver.

REGULATION 5. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 6. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 7. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 8. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 9. SUBSTANTIVE LAW-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT

Each applicant for licensure as a limited license legal technician shall show proof of having completed 3,000 hours of substantive law-related work experience supervised by a licensed lawyer as required by APR 5(c). The experience requirement shall be completed no more than three years before and 40 months after the date of the LLLT practice area examination that the applicant passed. The proof shall be provided in such form as the Bar requires, but shall include at a minimum:

- 1. the name and bar number of the supervising lawyer;
- 2. certification that the work experience meets the definition of substantive law-related work experience as defined in APR 28;
- 3. the total number of hours of substantive law-related work experience performed under the supervising lawyer; and
- 4. certification that the requisite work experience was acquired within the time period required by this regulation.

REGULATION 10. ADDITIONAL PRACTICE AREAS

- **A. Application for Additional Practice Area.** An LLLT seeking admission in an additional practice area must complete and file with the Bar:
 - 1. a completed practice area application in a form and manner prescribed by the Bar;
- 2. evidence in a form and manner prescribed by the Bar demonstrating completion of the practice area curriculum required under Regulation 3(B); and
 - 3. a signed and notarized Authorization, Release, and Affidavit of Applicant.
- **B.** Additional Practice Area Prelicensure Requirements. An LLLT who is seeking licensure in an additional practice area shall:
 - 1. take and pass the additional practice area examination;
 - 2. pay the annual license fee as stated in the fee schedule; and
 - 3. file any and all licensing forms required for active LLLTs.

The requirements above shall be completed within one year of the date the applicant is notified of the practice area examination results. If an LLLT fails to satisfy all the requirements for licensure in an additional practice area within this period, the LLLT shall not be eligible for licensure in the additional practice area without submitting a new application and retaking the

practice area examination.

- C. Order Admitting LLLT to Limited Practice in Additional Practice Area. After examining the recommendation and accompanying documents transmitted by the Bar, the Supreme Court may enter such order in each case as it deems advisable. For those LLLTs it deems qualified, the Supreme Court shall enter an order admitting them to limited practice in the additional practice area.
- **D. Voluntary Termination of Single Practice Area License.** An LLLT licensed in two or more practice areas may request to voluntarily terminate a single practice area by notifying the Bar in writing. After terminating the practice area license, the LLLT shall not accept any new clients or engage in work as an LLLT in any matter in the terminated practice area. The Bar will notify the LLLT of the effective date of the termination.

REGULATION 11. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 12. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 13. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 14. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 15. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 16. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 17. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 18. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 19. [Reserved.]

REGULATION 20. AMENDMENT AND BOARD POLICIES

These Regulations may be altered, amended, or repealed by vote of the LLLT Board on approval of the Supreme Court. The LLLT Board has ongoing authority to adopt policies for the administration of the LLLT program consistent with APR 28 and these Regulations.

[Adopted effective August 20, 2013; Amended effective September 3, 2013; March 31, 2015; June 21, 2016; November 22, 2016; September 1, 2017; June 4, 2019.]